[*Translation*]

Interest rate for Bank loans

5956. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector banks are providing loans to industrial houses at the rate of ten percent; and

(b) if so, the names of such banks and the total amount of loan given to the industrial houses during each of the last three years at the above rate?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBAR SINGH): (a) and (b). The interest rate structure for loans has been linked with the size of the loan with effect from 22nd September, 1990. The rate of interest stipulated was 10 percent for loans upto Rs.7500/- and 16 percent (minimum) over Rs.2.00 Lakhs. However, the rates have undergone revision from time to time and the present rates for the above loan limits are 11.5 percent and 19 percent (minimum). In the case of loan limits of over Rs. 2.00 Lakhs, banks are free to determine the actual lending rates. Presumbaly, the Industrial Houses enjoy credit faacilities of over Rs.2.00 Lakh and as per Reserve Bank of India's guidlines, the banks cannot stipulate 10 percent rate of interest in respect of such advances. RBI has also reported that they have not come across any instances where banks have charged 10 percent interest in respect of advances to Industrial Houses.

[*English*]

War Memorials for Award Winners

5957. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to set up war Memorials in the name of Service personnel, Param Vir Chakra and Ashok Chakra award winners at their birth places or at other suitable places; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) (a) and (b). There is no proposal to set of Param Vir Chakra and Ashok Chakra by tne Central Government either at their birth places or at other suitable places. However Government of India contemplate to set up a National War Memorial in Delhi to commemorate the memory of all Armed Forces personnel who laid down their lives for the country, during the post Independence period.

[*Translation*]

Revision of Pay Scale of Textle Industry Employees

5958. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the textile industry different pay scales have been prescribed for the posts having similar nature of duties; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to remove these anomalies and revise the scales suitably?

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Textile inustry is mainly in the private sector. Powerlooms and handlooms are in the decentralised sector and are scattered throughout the country. Pay scales are decided according to the type of management and operations.

[*English*]

Open Trade Centre

5959. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a open trade centre somewhere in the country on the lines of Hong Kong; and

(b) if so, the location and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The Advisory Committee constituted to examine the desirability of setting up a Free Port in India has recommended its establishment in Goa. The Committee has also suggested Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu as an appropriate choice for a subsequent Free Port on the east Coast.

[*Translation*]

Training Exercises by Armed Forces

5960. SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the training exercises in bombarding the villages adjoining to the training areas are got vacated resulting in heavy losses of lives and property to the villagers:

(b) if so, whether any compensation is provided to them during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance every year in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The villages falling within the boundaries of Field Firing Ranges are vacated during practice firing. The villages adjoining a Field Firing Range or outside it are not required to be vacated. Because of safety precuations taken prior to and during the practice firing, no heavy loss of life or property of the villagers have been reported except stray cases of accidental death or damage.

(b) and (c). The residents of the affected villages are paid compensation for the period of vacation of the Villages by them at the rates prescribed by the State Governments.

The amounts of compensation paid during the last 3 years are as under:-

1988-89 .. Rs. 52,73,972

1989-90 .. Rs. 99,56,845

1990-91 .. Rs. 22,88,546

(d) and (e). Compensation is already being paid whenever villages are vacated on account of practice firing. This arrangement will continue.

[*English*]

Removal of Restrictions on Export of onion

5961. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lift the restrictions on the export of onion;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be lifted; and